

Session 3 A Conversation on Trust (Chapter 5 in *The Only Prayer You'll Ever Need*)

“Thy Will be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven”

Trust is the last of the three petitions or prayers for alignment. The first is for *perspective*. It is a prayer which recognizes the limits of our perspective and asks God for more. It invites us to a greater awareness of the Holy in our midst and recognition of the value of each person to God.

The second is for *hope* for the Kingdom of God. The prayer recognizes that we can live small, with false hopes or with diminished hopes. The hope for the Kingdom of God is a hope that calls us to live in a larger story of life and suggests a noble purpose for the life we have been given.

The third alignment for which we pray is such *trust* in God that our will becomes more aligned with God's own. Just as trust in another person can open our lives to adventures and experiences that wouldn't have been possible otherwise, trust in God can open and deepen the experience of life. God wants to free us for our best life. Where we place our trust is a critical question in life. It is at the heart of the third petition of the prayer.

Open the time with prayer, inviting God to be present and then praying the words of the Lord's prayer through the third petition, concluding with the words, “thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Opening questions

How do you discern God's will in your life? How can you trust that you have rightly discerned it?

Who are the people you have most trusted in your life? What difference have they made to your life?

Are there people you trusted and shouldn't have? How has that affected your ability to trust? How did you recover...or did you?

Our experience

What do you suppose might have happened differently if Adam and Eve had discussed/debated before eating the apple?

Could you share an “apple eating” incident that may have diminished the joy that God intended for you? For others?

How can trusting others help you?

How can the failure to trust limit you?

Over the years, have you changed in your ability and capacity to trust?

The prayer

Where have you seen or experienced the goodness of God? How does your understanding of the goodness of God impact your willingness to trust God?

Does praying “thy will be done” threaten your freedom?

How could the desire for alignment of our will with God’s will change our life? What could it prompt us to do?

Our aspirations

What does it mean to trust God?

What might it mean to trust God more in your life now? What might be the results of deeper trust?

Is there a person who models for you both trust in God and trustworthiness?

How has your trust in this group grown?

Close with prayer for greater trust in the goodness of God and for each other.

“Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God, you have an everlasting rock” (Is 26:4)